(c) Setting up of new airports/upgradation of airports is a continuous process depending upon the traffic potential, demands from airlines operators, commercial viability etc. Airports Authority of India (AAI), from time to time, takes initiative in this regard, keeping in view the above factors, either with its own resources or with the participation of the concerned State Governments through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them.

Airport in BTAD

737. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the formalities has been completed by the authority for early completion of airport in Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD);

(b) if so, tentative period for its completion; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not to make any arrangement for the airport in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Pre-feasibility study conducted by AAI on a site identified by Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) did not find the site suitable for construction of an airport. BTC would identify the alternate site.

Working of DGCA

738. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is under staffed, under paid and over worked which has led to many incidents of imbroglio in air journeys and risk to lives of passengers;

(b) if so, the details of air journeys disrupted during last one year for man made reasons; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the working of DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Though Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is facing manpower constraints, it is not true that this has led to any incidents or risk to lives of passengers.

(c) DGCA continues to effectively enforce safety and regulatory standards on all airlines/operators without compromising passenger safety. While Government takes action on continuous basis for filling up the vacant posts, proposal for revival of lapsed vacancies are taken up on need basis.

Staff strength of DGCA

739. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Federal Aviation Administration has proposed to re-assess the precarious staff strength at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);